

Three Men Burned in Flash Fire

Your Complete Community Newspaper
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Torrance Herald

Wish of Majority
Loses Again
(Editorial, Page 4)

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COPS RAID HOME POKER GAME

Six Nabbed In Riviera Beach Home

Six business and professional men playing cards in a Torrance home overlooking the beach were arrested early yesterday by vice squad officers of the Torrance Police Department and the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Office.

Officers acted on a tip that a poker game was in session at 501 Paseo de la Playa atop the bluff overlooking Torrance Beach, according to reports prepared by the raiding officers.

Booked at Torrance jail on misdemeanor gambling charges were:

Joseph Goott, 39, a builder at whose home the game was being held;

Paul Pinya Shopper, 58, 236 Palos Verdes Blvd., owner of a bootery;

Gilbert Sanders Sr., 61, 1707 Steinhart, Redondo Beach, a real estate salesman;

Earl Lewis Correll, 33, 2217 Ellinwood Ave., a mason;

Steve Leschetsko, 42, 23022 Catskill Ave., Wilmington, pipe shop owner;

Billy Bernard Morris, 38, 5300 Sepulveda Blvd., Van Nuys, builder and contractor.

The raiding squad, led by Lt. D. C. Cook, head of the Torrance vice detail, watched the six men playing seven-card stud poker for several minutes before Cook and a Sheriff's officer entered through the front door of the home.

OFFICERS reported that the men were using red, green, and yellow chips, and that they saw Leschetsko cash some chips for Goott with currency.

When Lieutenant Cook and the Sheriff's sergeant identified themselves at the Goott home, Mrs. Goott said "come on in," they reported.

The six men were taken into custody and taken to Torrance jail for booking. Each was later freed on bail.

"WHY CAN'T we play cards in our own home?" the officers quoted Goott.

"This is just a friendly game," Shopper was quoted in police reports.

The raid was conducted with the cooperation of Police Chief

Percy G. Bennett, the official reports noted.

A bank of \$550, cards, and chips were confiscated by police as evidence.

Councilmen To Consider New Library

City councilmen will be asked Tuesday evening to hire an architect for a new North Torrance library at one of two proposed sites.

The Library Commission has recommended that Weldon J. Fulton & Associates be hired by the city to prepare preliminary plans and cost estimates for the new facility. Estimated cost of the new library has been pegged at \$82,000.

The sites under consideration are at Yukon Avenue and Artesia Boulevard, adjacent to the North Torrance fire station, and on 182nd Street. A smaller library would be built if the 182nd Street site is selected.

Preliminary plans call for the construction of a library to hold between 16,000 and 18,500 volumes.

Also on the council agenda for Tuesday evening are two agreements with the Santa Fe Railroad for grade crossing protection at the intersections of Madrona Avenue with Carson Street and Sepulveda Boulevard. Traffic signals have already been installed at the Sepulveda Boulevard intersection, but cannot be put into service until the grade crossing signals are installed.

The city will share the cost of installation with the railway. Any street reconstruction required will be done by the city.



FATE OF MAN . . . Sculptor Paul Salzberg shows Larry Macaray, El Camino instructor and Herald columnist, his nearly finished "The Sword of Damocles." Macaray visited the Greenwood Avenue home of sculptor Salzberg to view his latest works and to meet an outstanding craftsman. For details of his visit, see Macaray's "Let's Go" column today on Page 3.

Street Crew Hurt When Gas Flares

Three members of a Los Angeles city street crew were injured, one critically, when a sheet of flame flashed across the area at Plaza Del Amo and Western Avenue where they were working Friday afternoon.

Taken to the hospital with burns were Adolphus H. Alcorn, 54, of Compton, whose condition was described Saturday as critical; Abraham Creighton, 39, of Los Angeles, described as serious; and Henry L. Greenwood, 53, Los Angeles, who received minor injuries.

Refinery Explosion Rips Area

More than \$100,000 in damages was reported at the Mobil Oil Refinery on 190th Street Wednesday evening after firemen controlled a spectacular blaze at the refinery's catalytic crackers.

The blaze climbed to the top of the 23-story cracking unit after an explosion at the base of the tower. The company's fire brigade and city firemen battled the fire for 40 minutes to bring it under control.

No injuries were reported, but windows throughout the area were rattled. The explosion prompted a deluge of telephone calls to the Torrance Police Department.

The explosion occurred at 10:20 p.m. at the base of the tower, one of two units at the refinery. It knocked out the lights on the tower and created a hazardous condition for the 29 men who battled the blaze.

The fire erupted quickly and climbed to the top of the tower. The explosion was blamed on a mechanical malfunction.

Investigators indicated that a melting torch used to soften asphalt so it could be smoothed may have touched off gas seeping from an underground pipeline.

The trio had been working near the intersection where tracks of the Southern Pacific rail line cross when the blast injured them. A track crew was working on the railroad nearby, police reports show.

The hearing has been called to "get things on the record," according to Goertzen.

Chief Called For Hearings

Police Chief Percy G. Bennett has been subpoenaed to appear before a closed door hearing in Los Angeles Thursday, it was reported Friday by the attorney general's office.

Announcement of the hearing came after Bennett met in Los Angeles with Jack Goertzen, deputy attorney general. The hearing has been called to "get things on the record," according to Goertzen.

Public Vote Set Monday On Dr. Hull's Contract

An unprecedented public vote on the extension of a contract for Dr. J. H. Hull as superintendent of the Torrance Unified School District has been placed on the agenda for the Monday evening meeting of the Board of Education.

Renewal of the contract is automatic unless the superintendent is notified otherwise before Dec. 1, according to Board President Bert M. Lynn.

Dr. Hull, superintendent of the district since its formation 16 years ago, has had his contract extended each year since that time, but always by vote of the board meeting in a personnel session. Monday's public vote is believed to be the first in this district.

The HERALD has been told, but could not confirm, that the board already has voted on the contract in a personnel session, and that a majority favors extension of Dr. Hull's employment.

The board, which met at South High School two weeks ago, will return to the administration building on Plaza Del Amo for tomorrow's 7:30 p.m. meeting.

Egg Bombs Hit Many City Homes

Eggs and tomatoes replaced trick or treat in many parts of Torrance Thursday evening, according to reports made to THE HERALD and to Torrance police.

Residents along Post Avenue in downtown Torrance reported damage to homes by vandals throwing eggs and fruit. Other residents reported damage to homes, vehicles parked on the street, and to public buildings.

Damage was heavier throughout the area with the South Bay cities also reporting higher than normal vandalism as did the neighboring cities of Gardena, Hawthorne, and Lawndale.

One resident, however, told THE HERALD Friday that the Halloween visitors in her southwest Torrance neighborhood were deserving of commendation.

Mrs. John Klug, 5708 Palos Verdes Blvd., said all of the children visiting her home were polite and each one said "thank you."

Homeowners Plan to Change City's Image

A campaign to "Boost Torrance" will be the theme of a meeting of the Riviera Homeowners Assn. Monday evening at Parkway School, according to John D. Haidinger, president of the group.

Mayor Albert Isen and members of the city council will be at the meeting, which will be conducted in the question-and-answer "town hall" fashion.

The association is undertaking the "Boost Torrance" campaign because of adverse publicity which the city has received in recent weeks, Haidinger said. "It is time that every citizen, including all public officials, unite in telling the world that our city is still one of the most progressive and fastest growing cities in the entire West."

AT THE SAME time the Riviera Homeowners Assn. is meeting the Southwood Homeowners Assn. will meet at the Calle Mayor School.

The Southwood group will be discussing plans for their study of the Torrance Municipal Airport. Delegates from the Riviera Homeowners Assn., which has already endorsed the Southwood study of jet use of the airport, will attend the meeting.

William Uerkwitz, president of the Southwood association,

told the city council Tuesday evening that his group was investigating the problem thoroughly. Uerkwitz said the group was investigating the possible use of the airport by jet aircraft.

Road Work Approved On Vermont

Improvement of Vermont Avenue between Torrance Boulevard and 214th Street has been approved by the Board of Supervisors. Bids for the project will be opened Nov. 26.

Plans and specifications were prepared by the County Road Department. Work on the improvements is scheduled to be completed in February, 1964.

The project will include widening of the existing highway and the installation of curbs, gutters, and median dividers. Left turn channelization also is included.

The completed roadway will carry 26,000 vehicles daily, according to Supervisor Kenneth Hahn. Vermont Avenue now carries about 9,000 vehicles each day.

Jack Egan, manager of the airport, told Uerkwitz there are no jets at the airport now, "but eventually you'll get jets."

Both meetings will begin at 8 p.m.

In Carson Area Petitions Submitted to Block Incorporation Bid

Members of the Carson Homeowners Assn. have apparently blocked incorporation proceedings in the Carson area. A final determination will be made once signatures on the petitions submitted by the group last week are verified.

William H. Snudden, president of the homeowners group, said the petitions submitted this week contained signatures of 53 per cent of the area's property owners, more than enough to block further action if all are valid.

Snudden said the group will continue to submit petitions against the incorporation on a weekly basis. "We expect that 65 per cent of the area will be opposed before we are

Petitions Submitted to Block Incorporation Bid

through," Snudden told THE HERALD yesterday.

R. B. KEITH, a member of the committee which initiated the attempt to incorporate, said his group has taken a "wait and see" attitude.

The County Board of Supervisors has scheduled a boundary hearing on the incorporation for Nov. 21.

"WE ARE getting far more from the county than a city could give us," explained Snudden. He said the group would "work just as hard for the incorporation of the area if it included the entire 26 square miles." Snudden said such a move would be at least two years in the future.

The area under question is about two square miles in area. It is bounded by 213th Street, the Harbor Freeway, 223rd Street, and Wilmington Avenue.

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A Penny for your Thoughts

The Pennies inquirer asked persons what they think about the switch "back to standard time."

Mrs. Fred Flemming, 1011 Faysmith:

"I don't like it and my family doesn't like it either. The day goes so fast and the evening seems so short. We much prefer daylight saving time. I don't like for it to be dark at 5 o'clock."

Mrs. Robert D. Sullivan, 445 Calle Mayor:

"I like the sunshine but I certainly don't like to be washing dishes when it's dark because it seems like it's so late in the evening. I think my girls like going to school when the sun is out. The family really hasn't commented on the time change."

Mrs. Joseph Dock, 4407 W. 234th Pl.:

"I don't like it. I prefer daylight saving time because I like the additional daylight and it gives the children time to go out and play when they get home from school. The first couple of weeks of the time change my husband doesn't like driving home from work in the dark but he gets used to it."

Mrs. George Crabtree, 1753 Gramercy:

"I don't mind the change back to standard time. It doesn't matter to me. The family doesn't mind either. I like daylight saving time during the summer months."

Traffic Safety Council to Meet

Ben Gautier, president of the Huntington Park Traffic Safety Council, will speak on "Community Role in Safety" Monday at a noon luncheon of the Torrance Traffic Safety Council. The session will be held at the Palms restaurant.

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